



2016 Iowa Farm to School Program

Procurement is a critical part of Farm to School as buying locally grown produce not only supports local growers and communities but it also offers students a new taste on fruits and veggies; however Farm to School is about much more than that. Education and hands on learning activities that will feed our students brains for years to come is equally important. The Iowa Farm to School program offer schools and teachers the opportunity to engage at many levels. We encourage you to consider Farm to School by starting small and growing from there. Take a look at these upcoming opportunities:

2016: Farm to School Local Purchase Report (schools/growers)

IDALS is partnering with AMS to publish a report of purchases of local product by Iowa Schools. This information will list purchases and a price range of each. Help increase awareness and demand for local produce throughout the year by forwarding your local purchasing information. (all information is kept anonymous.)

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/lsmiafts.pdf>

March: A Garden is the Way to Grow (schools/students)

Each spring schools are given the opportunity to apply for a garden initiative that offers incentives and tools to start/expand a school garden. Through garden activities, students have inadvertently been exposed to math, science and physical activity while raising their awareness of the food cycle exponentially.

Multi-State Farm to School Collaboration – Nebraska City, March 2nd [Collaboration Midwest Farm to School](#)

May-October: Farmers Market Scavenger Hunt (students/teachers/local growers)

Students K-8 attend a participating Farmers Market and complete a scavenger hunt and receive a free piece of fruit or vegetable and the chance to have their name drawn to win more great prizes. The classroom with the highest participation will receive a grow light.

August: Farm to School – Open Something Great (School Food Service/local growers)

Chance for schools to receive free, food-grade boxes to provide to the local growers they are working with.

September/October: Fall initiative (Teachers/students)

Opportunity for teachers to receive funds to procure local fruits/vegetables from a local producer along with classroom supplies to be incorporated with their classroom lesson.

October: Farm to School Month Celebration (students/schools/local growers)

Let the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship help your classroom/school celebrate Farm to School month by participating in the Farm to School Month Celebration.

Farm to School Chapters (schools/students/local growers)

Create your own farm to school plan and receive up to \$4,000 (requires 7 members and a contract).

Follow us on Facebook to see more great Farm to School highlights

<https://www.facebook.com/IowaFarmtoSchool?sk=timeline>

*All events are tentative and can change depending on the availability of the crop)

For more information contact Tammy Stotts (tammy.stotts@iowaagriculture.gov)